

REMARKS

Claims 11-14 and 16-18 are pending in the present application. Claim 11 has been amended. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 11-13 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeng (U.S. Patent 6,563,331), Sakai (U.S. Patent 5,650,732) and further in view of Buermann (U.S. Patent 6,811,370). Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeng, Sakai, and Buermann as applied to claim 11, and further in view of Kim et al. (U.S. Patent 6,518,745 – hereinafter “Kim”). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being anticipated by Maeng Sakai and Buermann, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s assertion because the present invention as amended is different from Maeng, Sakai and Buermann for the following reasons.

In the amended present invention, (a) the test head has a plurality of contact groups composed of a set of contact portions, (b) each strip format gripped by moving means corresponds to each contact group, and (c) the sum of contact portions which compose a plurality of contact groups matches with the simultaneously measured number limited in the electronic device testing apparatus.

However Maeng, Sakai and Buermann do not at all disclose the above-mentioned features set forth in (a) - (c), above.

Generally, in the electronic device testing apparatus for testing the packaged electronic device, the number of electronic devices which are simultaneously tested matches with the simultaneously measured number which is limited 2^n , such as 32 or 64, per one electronic device testing apparatus, so that the test is efficiency (see page 3, line 1-8, of the present specification).

On the contrary, a strip format is a conveying medium on which the not packaged electronic devices loaded for preventing the electronic devices from parting within and between the production steps, and there are a huge variety of the number and arrangement of the electronic devices loaded on the strip format (see page 3, line 22 through page 4, line 14 of the present specification).

For this reason, when the electronic devices loaded on the strip format are tested, the test efficiency deteriorates unless the number of electronic devices which are simultaneously tested matches with the simultaneously measured number (see page 4, line 15 through page 5, line 12 of the present specification).

In the present invention as amended, a plurality of the contact portions on the test head are divided into several groups and a plurality of the strip formats are supplied to one test head, so that it is easy to match the number of the electronic devices simultaneously tested with the simultaneously measured number.

Further, in the present invention, the number of moving means is reduced because each moving means can hold a plurality of strip formats. Consequently, it is possible to reduce the facility costs and the occupying area of the electronic device testing apparatus.

Support for the amendments to independent claim 11 can be found in the present specification at page 37, lines 11-15, page 35, lines 1-18, and page 37, line 16 through page 38, line 4.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments, it is believed that the claims are not anticipated by Maeng or Sakai, when taken alone or in combination with Buermann or Kim. Therefore, claim 11 is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Additionally, since claims 12-14 and 16-18 depend directly or indirectly on claim 11, it is believed that these claims are also in condition for immediate allowance.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

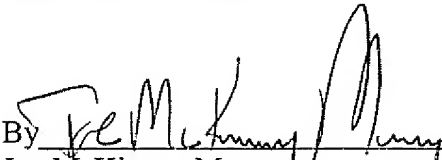
Application No. 10/512,051
Amendment dated August 2, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 9, 2007

Docket No : 5417-0105PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 2, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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